

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 IO-10 RSC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 LAB-01 NSAE-00

SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W
----- 123238

R 262035Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8698

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 5099

GUATEMALA PASS ROCAP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, PINT, ELAB, HO

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH LABMIN FONSECA

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 5079

1. LABOFF CALLED ON LABMIN FONSECA NOVEMBER 25. FONSECA SAID HE HAD SPENT MOST OF WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18 DEALING WITH PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE STANDARD FRUIT CO. HE WAS IN LA CEIBA NOVEMBER 18-20 NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COMPANY AND THE UNION WHICH WOULD RESULT IN THE SUSPENSION OF 700 WORKERS WHILE THE OTHERS WOULD ROTATE WORK SCHEDULES. FONSECA WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED THAT STANDARD'S NEW POSITION PRESENTED TO THE GOH NOV. 22 (REFTEL) MAY MEAN THAT THE EFFORT TO REACH A COMPROMISE WAS WASTED. FONSECA'S VIEWS ON GENERAL BANANA QUESTION FOLLOW SEPTTEL. FONSECA ALSO LAMENTED THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STANDARD AND SUTRAFSKO IS SO POOR THAT THE ONLY WAY THEY TALK TO EACH OTHER IS THROUGH AN INTERMEDIARY, IN THIS CASE THE MINISTER.

2. FONSECA DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE LATEST CABINET
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SESSIONS DEALING WITH THE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW. IT IS HIS

UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CABINET HAS FINISHED ITS WORK AND THAT THE LAW WILL BE PASSED TO THE SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL LATER THIS WEEK. NO OTHER LAW HAS BEEN SENT TO THE SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL PRIOR TO ENACTMENT AND THIS FACT DEMONSTRATES THE LAW'S IMPORTANCE.

3. CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ HAS NOT YET ACCEPTED FONSECA'S RESIGNATION BUT THE LATTER IS GRADUALLY GIVING UP ACTIVITIES NOT DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE LABOR MINISTRY. THIS IS BEING DONE TO DEMONSTRATE TO LOPEZ THAT FONSECA DOES IN FACT INTEND TO LEAVE.

4. COMMENT: FONSECA APPEARED TO BE VERY TIRED AND UNWELL. HE COMPLAINED OF VISION PROBLEMS AS WELL AS SEVERE STOMACH PAINS. HE SUSPECTS HE HAS AN ULCER AND PLANS TO LEAVE FOR GUATEMALA ABOUT NOVEMBER 28 FOR A COMPLETE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE PLANNED "TO TALK TO AN OLD FRIEND IN ROCAP TO ASK FOR A JOB" AND SEEMED TO BE SERIOUS. HE NOW GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF BEING IN INCREDIBLY POOR SPIRITS AND MENTALLY EXHAUSTED.

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Message Attributes

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